

**St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church**  
**His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York**  
**And Metropolitan of all North America**  
**His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop**  
**Of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast**  
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**The Holy Apostles Sosthenes, Apollos, Tychicus, Epaphroditus,**  
**Onesiphorus, Cephass and Caesar**

All of them are commemorated on January 4 with the other lesser apostles. St. Apollos is also commemorated separately on September 10; St. Onesiphorus, September 7; Saints Cephass and Caesar, March 30. St. Sosthenes was bishop in Caesarea, and St. Tychicus was his successor in the same city. Epaphroditus was bishop in Andriopolis in Pamphylia; Cephass, in Iconium; and Caesar, in the Colophon Peloponnese. They all preached the Gospel of Christ with burning love, endured suffering for His holy name and entered into the Kingdom of Eternal Joy.

*from: The Prologue from Ochrid*

# St. Basil Antiochian Orthodox Church



**December 8, 2019**  
**The 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**The 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Luke**

# Welcome!

## To Our Guests:

While we are not yet in formal inter-communion with other faith traditions, we have much respect for their rites of worship and sanctuaries of prayer. In our tradition, **Holy Communion is open only to those Orthodox Christians who are in good standing with the Church and have prepared themselves by prayer, fasting and a recent confession.** Please do not be offended by this if you are not an Orthodox Christian or in good standing with the Church. We welcome you to our church and invite you to receive a blessing and partake of the blessed bread at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

**In our tradition...** *the church temple is a house of prayer. Upon entering it, please refrain from unnecessary conversation before, during and after church services, most especially during the Divine Liturgy from the time of the consecration of the Gifts until the last person has received the Eucharist. At the end of the Divine Liturgy, please come quietly forward to receive a piece of the antidoron and exit the church temple. During coffee hour in the Church Hall is the appropriate place to exchange personal greetings and converse with one another. May God bless your reverence and piety.*

**Epistle Reading:** Ephesians 4:1-7

**Gospel Reading:** St. Luke 13:10-17

## Saints of the Day

Venerable Patapios of Thebes; Sophronios, bishop of Cyprus; Apostles Sosthenes, Apollos, Cephas, Tychicus, Crispus, Caesar, Onesiphorus and Epaphroditos of the Seventy; Martyr Parthenios; Cyril of Chelmogorsk; New Hieromartyr John.

## From Rob Booms, Chairman of the Parish Council

We are now coming to the end of a very good year for St. Basil. We have seen membership growth, steady giving, good attendance, beautiful music and a closer relationship with our Bishop. However, we must finish the year strong. If you have not fulfilled your pledge, please do so before the end of the year so that we can recover from the major air conditioning expense we had to incur. Your parish council is now developing the budget for 2020. We will need to address the replacement of another air conditioning unit among other upkeep on

our nearly 30 year-old church and 40 year- old parish hall. As we continue to attract visitors who are interested in Orthodoxy, it is important that we present an attractive and functional facility. That's why we plan major additions to our icons and an improved sound system next year. We must rely on the support of all parishioners to sustain the momentum we observed this year. In the sixth chapter of his first letter to St. Timothy, St. Paul reminds us that we brought nothing into this world and can take nothing out. We are not called to hoard our wealth but to give generously for the spread of the good news of our Lord's resurrection. Please consider your pledge for 2020 with that in mind. Lord, may we honor thee with our substance and be faithful stewards of thy bounty so that we can be assured a heavenly treasure unto the ages of ages. God bless---Rob Booms

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Saturday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> – No Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Saturday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Tuesday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – Royal Hours, 8:30 A.M.; Vespers Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

Wednesday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy, 10:00 A.M.

Saturday, Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> – No Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

Tuesday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> – Vespers Liturgy, 6:30 P.M.

Saturday, Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confessions, 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> – Orthros, 8:30 A.M.; Divine Liturgy, 9:30 A.M.

## **Orthodox Thoughts from Theo, the Parish Possum**



Our possum family really enjoys hearing the beautiful liturgy on Sunday mornings from our den below the altar. We try to follow the prayers but they are very long and have a lot of difficult words like “intercession” and “cherubim.” Our little ones don’t understand them, so we’ve come up with some simpler language. When they are happy and good things happen to them, we ask them to say “Thank you, Lord.” When they are sad, sick or in trouble, we ask them to say, “Help me, Lord.” When they are bad or hurt people’s feelings, we ask them to say, “Forgive me, Lord.” Even for us grown-ups, three-word prayers like these or “Lord have mercy,” give us an easy way of reaching out to our Lord. It’s better and faster than a tweet or a text and we don’t have to worry that the message won’t be received. Our

faith teaches us that the Lord is always listening. Now, if we could just find some quiet time to listen for the reply.  
Peace be with you during this Nativity season---Theo, the Orthodox possum

**Today's Ushers:** Rose Hrabar. **Next Week:** Michael Zelesnik.

**Today's coffee hour:** Team ?. Thank you. **Next Sunday:** Team 1.

As of Dec. 3, 2019, 48 pledges were received for 2019 totaling \$93,256.00. The collection for Nov. 17, 2019, totaled \$2,594.50, the collection for Nov. 24 totaled \$4,100.00, and the collection for Dec. 1 totaled \$2,405.00, for a year-to-date amount of \$132,298.76, a weekly average of \$2,756.04. As of Nov. 27, 2019, our expenses are \$118,079.26, a weekly average of \$2,539.43.

#### ***Spiritual Counsels...***

"A quick-tempered man commits rash acts, the prudent man will be long-suffering." – Prov. 14:17

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The **Advent Fast** begins Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, and is divided into two periods. The first period is Nov. 15 – Dec. 19, with the traditional fasting discipline observed (no meat, poultry, dairy, eggs, fish, alcohol and oil). There is an allowance, however, for alcohol and oil on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and an allowance for alcohol, oil and fish on Saturdays and Sundays. The second period is Dec. 20 – 24, with the traditional fasting discipline observed. There is an allowance, however, for alcohol and oil only on Saturday and Sunday.

The holy bread was sponsored by the **Donea family** on Nov. 24 for the health of **Simion, Olga, Xenia** and **Dumitru**. May God grant them many years.

The altar candle was sponsored in memory of **Milad** and **Ramzi Chedid** by **Cesar** and **Leila El-Hajj** on Nov. 24 and Dec. 1 for the health of **Jamal, Najla, Cesar, Leila, Stephanie, Elia, Milad, Rabih, Maria, Nicholas, Christopher, Milad, Amelia, Yasmine, Lebnan, Arzeh, Gbantous, Dolly, Marlene, Assad** and their families (many years), and in memory of **Milad, Ramzi, Elia, Vagar, Christobal** and **Peter Boulos** (memory eternal).

Church calendars and pledge forms for 2020 are available in the Church Hall for each family of the parish. Should you need additional calendars or more information, please see Fr. Peter.

The Parish Council shall hold their December meeting next Sunday, Dec. 15, after Divine Liturgy. All Council members please attend.

The youth Christmas Pageant is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 22. Please send Pam Nugent for more information.

The Royal Hours of the Nativity are scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 24, at 8:30 A.M., followed by the Vespers Divine Liturgy at 10:00 A.M.

Orthros for the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord is scheduled for 9:00 A.M. followed by the Divine Liturgy at 10:00 A.M. on Dec. 25.

A Vespers Divine Liturgy is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 31, at 6:30 P.M. for the Feast of St. Basil the Great. Fasting (if you wish to receive Holy Communion during the Liturgy) should begin no later than 12:30 P.M. that day.

Our **Diocesan Winter Retreat** is scheduled for January 24-26, 2020. Please see the flyer in the Church Hall or check your email for more information.

An **Orthodoxy 101/Inquirers' Class** shall be offered on the first Tuesday of each month. Our next gathering is on Feb. 4 at 6:30 P.M. A potluck meal shall be served followed by a presentation and discussion. Everyone is welcome!